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5 April 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NIE-27: Chinese Communist Capabilities and Intentions
with Respect to Taiwan

1. The last sentence of paragraph 2 of the Conclusions, on page 2, is an unfortunate survival from an earlier draft which is an inadequate statement of what is meant. I suggest that the following two sentences be substituted for it:

"The USSR would probably estimate that it would incur a substantial risk of war with the US if it furnished assistance of the type and scale that would be required to make the operation successful. We do not believe the USSR is likely to incur this degree of risk solely on account of the advantage to be gained from Chinese Communist conquest of Taiwan in 1951."

2. If this change is acceptable, a parallel alteration of paragraph 23 of the Discussion, on page 15, would logically follow.

3. The first sentence of paragraph 19 of the Discussion, on page 12, would be improved by substituting "assistance" for "aid" in the last line of the page. Actually what is meant by this "aid" is "if substantial US naval and air power participated in the defense of the island".

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